GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6758
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2002
BOOST TO EXPORTS
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the countries with whom India is having favourable balance of trade during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government`s attention has been drawn to the news-item Captioned `Africa features as best export destination` appearing in the Pioneer dated April 18, 2002.

(c) if so, the data complied by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics:

(d) the country where the export growth is negative;

(e) whether the Government have assessed the reasons for the same;

(f) if so, the details in this regard; and

(g) the further steps taken or likely to be taken by the Government to improve the export in these countries and the target set for 2002-2003?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) The countries with whom India is having favourable balance of trade are Denmark, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Hongkong, Thailand, Canada, USA, and Russia.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The data complied by the Directorate general of Commercial Intelligence and statiscs for Sub-Saharan-African region may be seen at Annexure - I

(d) The countries in sub-Saharan-African region showing negative growth during the year 2000-2001 as compared to previous year are Lesotho, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Canary Is., Cape Verde Is., Ghana Liberia Sao Tome, St. Helena, Chad, Malawi, Rwanda, Zaire rep., Comoros and Somalia

(e-g) the main reasons for negative growth are distance, language barriers, inadequacy of information about business opportunities, higher incidence of civil strife, macro-economic instability etc. The Government has launched `Focus: Africa` programme on 31st March 2002, with a view to enhance the trade with Sub Saharan African Countries.The expected compound growth of exports is at the rate of 20% per annum. It plans to double the exports in the next 4-5 years.